

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. No claim amendments are presented, thus no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(e) as anticipated by Groner (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,643); and Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Groner in view of Dahlen (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,454).

The outstanding Official Action asserts that Groner teaches all of the elements of independent Claim 1. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 relates to a computer-telephone coupling telephoning system including a plurality of telephones connected to a telephone network and a computer terminal which is associated with at least one of the respective connected telephones. A database is also provided which recognizes a voice message output from a calling telephone to a called telephone and transcribes the voice message to a written message. The transcribed message and data necessary to display the written message on the display screen of a computer terminal are then transmitted to the computer terminal associated with the number of the called telephone. The written message is displayed on the display screen of the computer terminal while the called telephone receives voice messages.

Thus, the telephone and corresponding computer terminal receive voice and text messages corresponding to a voice data input from the called telephone simultaneously via different transmission lines. As recited in Claim 1, the telephone line is connected to a telephone network and a digital interface, whereas the computer is connected to the digital interface and the database via a computer network.

Turning to the applied reference, Groner describes a speech recognition system and method for converting voice mail messages to electronic mail messages. Specifically, when a caller leaves a message at a called telephone's voice mailbox, the audio data of the voicemail is transcribed into a text e-mail to be transmitted to a called telephone device.¹ Groner also describes that the audio voice message may be included as an attachment to the e-mail text message transmitted from the voice mail system to the called telephone.²

In contrast, Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a computer-telephone coupling telephony system, comprising:

“telephones connected to a telephone network through...
a digital interface...
computer terminals associated with at least some of the
telephones ... being connected to a computer data transmission
network...
transcribing the voice message into a written message
and transmitting data necessary to display the written message
on the display screen of the computer terminal... through the
computer data transmission network *said written message
being displayed on a display screen of the computer terminal
while the called telephone receives said voice message.*”

Thus, according to Claim 1, the voice data corresponding to the transmitted message is transmitted to the *called telephone* through the *telephone network* and written message information corresponding to the message is transmitted to the *computer terminal* via the *computer data transmission network* simultaneously (while the called telephone...).

In contrast, Groner, as discussed above, describes that the transcribed text message and corresponding voice mail message are only transmitted simultaneously only when the voice mail message is included as an attachment to the e-mail including the transcribed voice mail message.³ Thus, the text message and corresponding voice mail attachment are

¹ Groner at col. 4, lines 367-42.

² Groner at col. 7, lines 17-28.

³ Id.

transmitted to the user's terminal via the *same transmission line*, and arrive at the *same device*.

Thus, Groner fails to teach or suggest that a telephone and corresponding computer terminal simultaneously receive audio and text messages, respectively, over different communications paths, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn. As Claim 3 depends from Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this claim also patentably defines over Groner.

Claims 2 and 4 were rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Groner in view of Dahlen. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

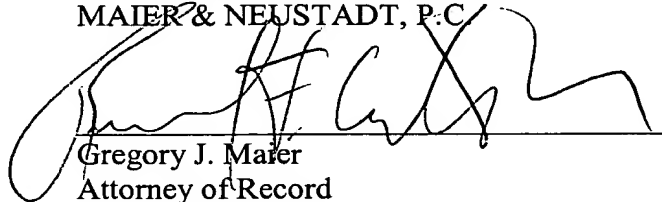
As discussed above, Groner fails to teach or suggest that a telephone and corresponding computer terminal simultaneously receive audio and text messages, respectively, over different communications paths. Likewise, Dahlen fails to remedy this deficiency, and therefore, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest Applicant's Claims 2 and 4 which include the above distinguished features by virtue of dependency. Therefore, the Official Action does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to any of these claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of Claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-4 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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